

*Safety Instructions, Installation & Operator's Manual For*

# **SNAPPER®**

**#6-3125 CLAMSHELL GRASS CATCHER KIT  
For 28" & 33" REAR ENGINE RIDING MOWERS**



**28" REAR ENGINE RIDER WITH  
CLAMSHELL BAGGER KIT SHOWN**

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**MANUAL No. 7-2887 (I.R. 01/24/00)**

# IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS



## WARNING



All safety instructions and operating instructions in the manuals provided with the Snapper Rear Engine Rider and this Grass Catcher attachment must be followed. Read, understand, and follow ALL instructions and warnings in the Operator's Manual provided with the machine, with this attachment, and ALL instructions and warnings on the machine, engine and attachment. Failure to comply with ALL instructions and warnings can result in damage, serious injury or death to the operator or other persons.

- 1) DO NOT allow children or others in the yard when the machine is operated (even with the blades off).
- 2) DO NOT allow children or others to ride on the machine or attachment (even with the blades off).
- 3) DO NOT allow children to operate the machine.
- 4) DO NOT operate blades in reverse. STOP blades. LOOK and SEE behind and down for children, pets, and hazards before and while backing.
- 5) FRONT WEIGHT must be installed before operating machine with grass catcher.
- 6) DO NOT operate machine on slopes exceeding 10 degrees (18% grade) when equipped with grass catcher.
- 7) Exercise EXTREME CAUTION on all slopes. Turn blades off when traveling uphill. Use a slow speed and avoid sudden or sharp turns.
- 8) DO NOT operate machine across face of slopes. Operate up and down. Practice on slopes with blades off.
- 9) AVOID uphill starts. If machine stops going up hill or tires lose traction, turn blades OFF and back slowly down the slope.
- 10) GRASS CATCHER COMPONENTS are subject to deterioration during normal use. Inspect all components frequently for signs of wear or deterioration. Replace worn or damaged components immediately.
- 11) DO NOT leave machine with engine running. STOP engine, STOP blades, SET brake, and REMOVE key before leaving operator's position for any reason.
- 12) DO NOT attempt to remove or unclog the grass catcher with engine or blades running. Stop engine and blades and make sure all rotating components have come to a complete stop before removing any catcher component or attempting to unclog catcher or deck.
- 13) DO NOT operate machine with Clamshell Catcher open. The catcher must be closed at all times, unless dumping. Stop blades before dumping grass catcher.



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# SECTION 1 – ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

## INTRODUCTION

The 6-3125 Clamshell Grass Catcher kit fits Snapper Rear Engine Riding mowers equipped with 28" and 33" decks. Use the following instructions to assemble the grass catcher components and prepare your machine for collecting grass clippings and leaves. Follow and complete each step carefully.

**WARNING**

DO NOT attempt any adjustments, maintenance or service with the engine running. STOP engine. STOP blade. Engage parking brake. Remove key. Remove spark plug wire from spark plug and secure wire away from spark plug. Engine and components are HOT. Avoid serious burns, allow all parts to cool before working on machine.

### STEP 1

#### RIGHT AND LEFT BUMPER BRACKET INSTALLATION

Riders equipped with 2-piece type rear bumpers, See Figure 1.1, will require replacement to complete installation. Replace with one-piece bumper, P/N 3-6367, purchased separately from your local Snapper dealer. The Bumper and Bumper Brackets will be attached to the Rider using bolts removed in the following steps.



FIGURE 1.1

- A. Remove two right bumper bolts and the right frame bolt located at the top rear of the main frame. See Figure 1.2. Align holes in right bumper support bracket, bumper and frame. Reinstall same bolts. Tighten the two Bumper bolts before tightening the frame bolt.

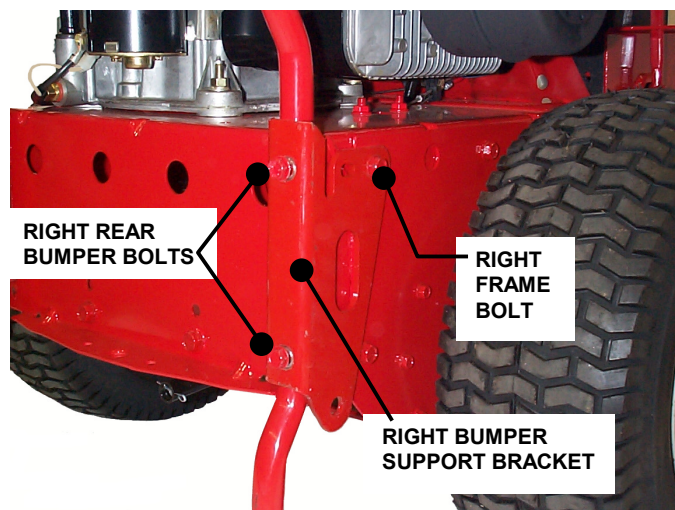


FIGURE 1.2

- B. Remove top left bolt from bumper and the left frame bolt located at the top rear of the main frame. See Figure 1.3. Align holes in left bumper support bracket, bumper and frame. Reinstall same bolts. Tighten the Bumper bolts before tightening the frame bolt.

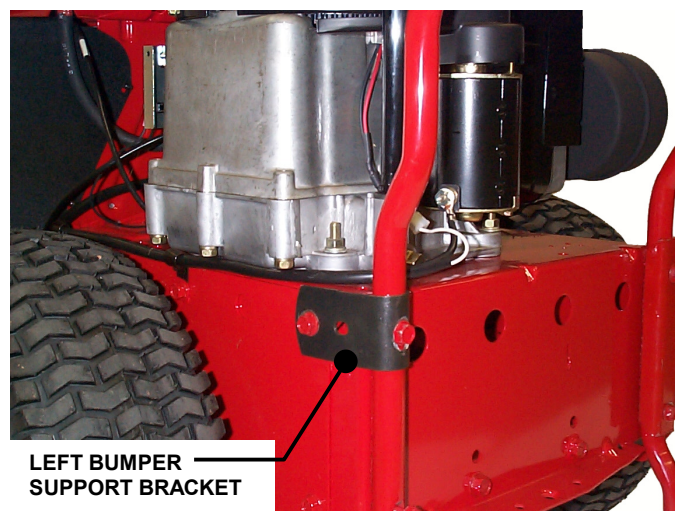


FIGURE 1.3



# SECTION 1 – ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

## STEP 2

### HITCH PLATE AND HEAT SHIELD INSTALLATION

- A. Attach triangular shaped Hitch Plate to bottom of Front Cover Assembly. Orientation of the holes in the hitch plate is important, observe picture carefully before assembling. Align holes in Hitch Plate and Front Cover Frame. Insert (2) 5/16-18 x 5/8" Flange Lock hex bolts. Place Heat Shield over bolts as shown and secure with (2) 5/16-18 Flange Lock hex nuts.

**Do not tighten at this time.** See Figure 1.4.

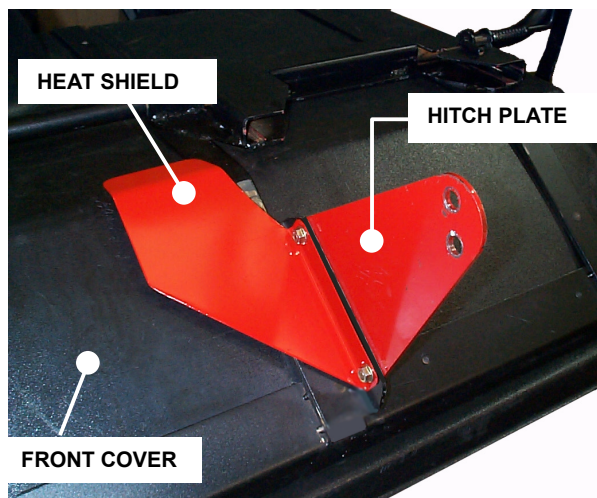


FIGURE 1.4

- B. Place Front Cover Assembly over rear bumper and secure in place with spring loaded latch. See Figure 1.5.

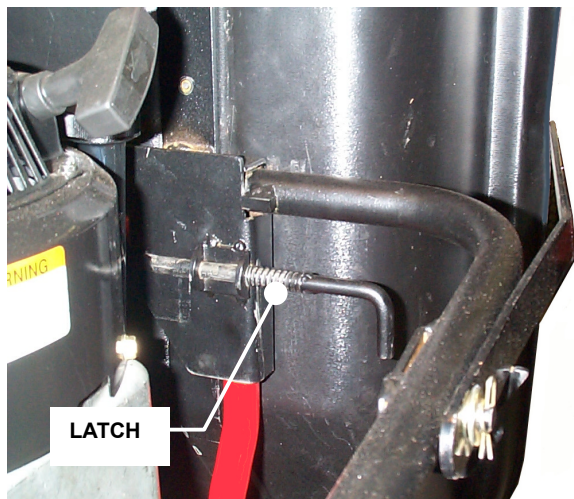


FIGURE 1.5

- C. Align hole in Hitch Plate with hole in Bumper Support. Insert 1/2-13 x 1" hex bolt, with head on inside of frame, through holes. Place one 1/2" Internal Tooth lock washer and hex nut on bolt (washer and nut on outside of frame) and tighten securely. See Figure 1.6.

- D. Tighten hitch plate bolts that were left loose in STEP 2, "A".
- E. Attach left end of baffle to Front Cover Assembly. Place (1) 3/16" Flat Washer over #10-24 x 3/4" Flange Lock Bolt and insert from inside cover. Secure with (1) #10-24 Flange Lock Nut. Tighten securely.

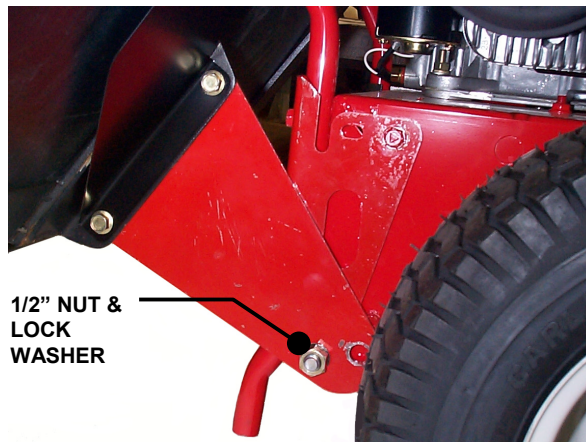


FIGURE 1.6

## STEP 3

### HINGE PIVOT BOLT INSTALLATION

- A. Place Rear Cover Assembly on Front Cover Assembly aligning holes in hinge tabs. Place one 3/8" flat washer between the two left Hinge Tabs and insert 3/8-16 x 1" hex head bolt. See Figure 1.7. Add 3/8" flat washer and secure with 3/8-16 Top Lock nut. Do not over tighten. Hinge must pivot freely.
- B. Repeat on right Hinge Tabs.

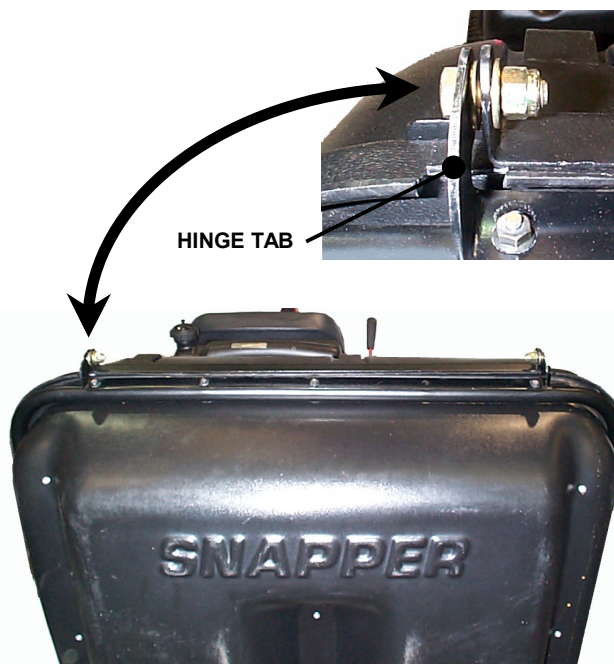


FIGURE 1.7

# SECTION 1 – ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

## STEP 4

### HINGE ADJUSTMENT – REAR COVER

The holes in the rear Hinge Plate are slotted and adjustment may be required to insure a proper seal between the front and rear Covers.

- A. Insert hook on the right Rear Cover Assembly into round hole in right Handle Link. Note: right Handle Link is flat, no bend. See Figure 1.8.

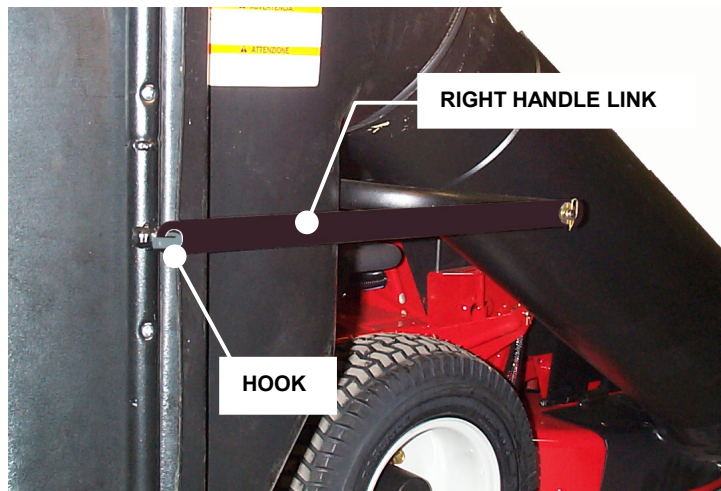


FIGURE 1.8

- B. Place one 3/8" flat washer over stud on right of handle tube.  
C. Insert stud into center hole of right Handle Link. Add another 3/8" flat washer over stud and secure with hair pin. See Figure 1.9.

**NOTE:** The right and left Handle Links contain 3 closely spaced holes to adjust the amount of force required to close and latch the Grass Catcher. To increase the closing force and provide a tighter seal between the front and rear covers, place stud in rear hole. To decrease the force, place stud in front hole.

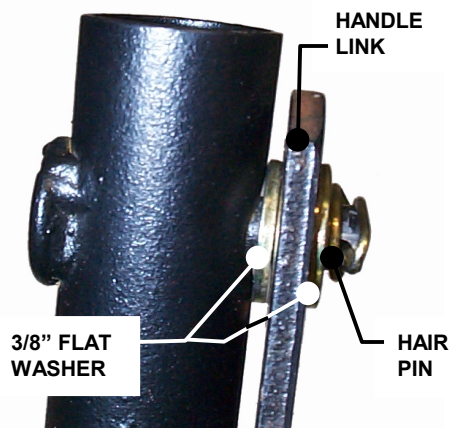


FIGURE 1.9

- D. Repeat procedure for left Handle Link.  
E. Close catcher by pushing down on handle.

- F. Actuate Catcher Handle. Catcher should open and close smoothly with no binding. If the action is not smooth, adjustment to the Hinge or Handle Links may be required.  
G. If hinge adjustment is required, loosen hinge plate hardware. For a tighter seal, push top of rear cover frame firmly against the Front Cover Assembly. Tighten hinge plate hardware securely. See Figure 1.10.

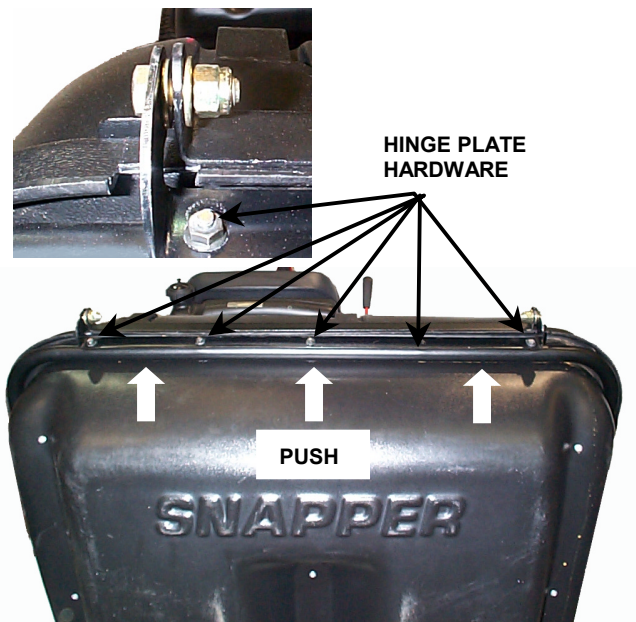


FIGURE 1.10

**WARNING**  
DO NOT operate machine with Grass Catcher if front weight has not been installed.

## STEP 5

### FRONT WEIGHT INSTALLATION

The weight of the Clamshell Grass Catcher and contents affects the stability and handling of the machine. The front weight must be installed prior to operating the machine with the catcher installed. Failure to install the weight could cause damage, serious injury or death.



# SECTION 1 – ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

**IMPORTANT – “M” SERIES RIDERS:** Series 17, “M” model riders will require the drilling of two holes in the front frame to install the Front Weight. Series 19, “M” model riders already have the holes drilled but are covered by the SNAPPER decal. Holes can be located by rubbing lightly over decal. If you have a Series 17 rider, use the dimensions on the illustration provided to mark the locations for drilling the two holes. See Figure 1.11.

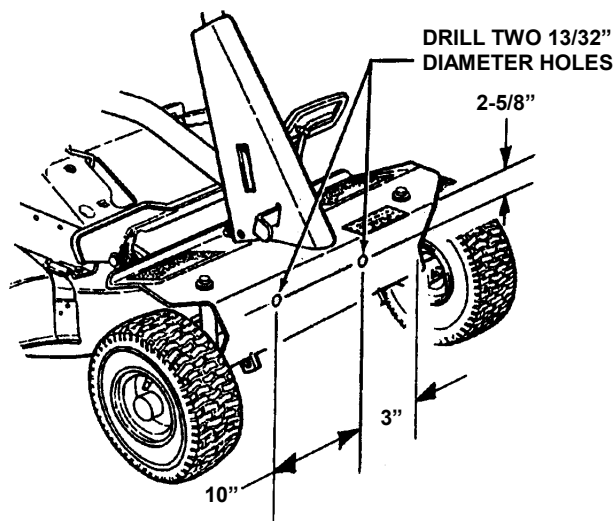


FIGURE 1.11

- A. Attach weight to the front frame of Rider using (2) 3/8-16 x 3" hex head bolts and (4) heavy 3/8" flat washers. Place one washer on each bolt.
- B. Align holes in weight with holes in frame. Insert bolt, with washer, through weight and frame. See Figure 1.12.

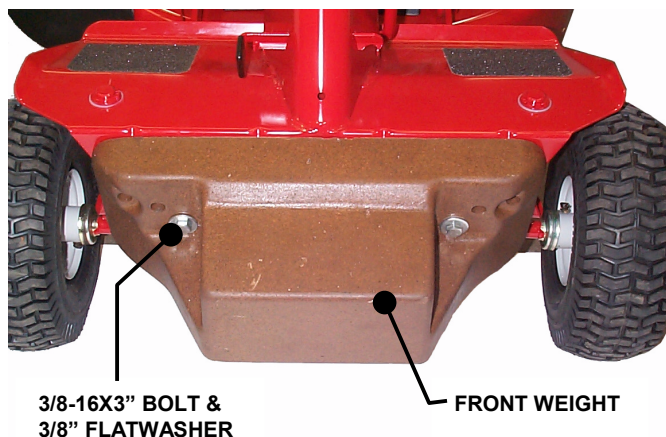


FIGURE 1.12

- C. Add washer to bolt on inside of frame and secure with 3/8-16 Lock nut. Tighten securely.

## STEP 6

### AIR LIFT KIT, #6-0480 INSTALLATION

Some Rider models will not require the installation of the Air Lift Kit included with the Grass Catcher. Inspect the blade on your mower. If the blade does not have mounting holes for the Air Lift Kit, the blade is a High Lift version and does not require the kit. If the blade does have the holes in the lift area of the blade, install the Lift Kit. Installation instructions and the necessary hardware are included with the Air Lifts.

**WARNING**

Blades are extremely sharp and can cause severe injuries. Wear heavy gloves when working on or handling blades. DO NOT use blades that show signs of wear or damage.

**WARNING**

DO NOT operate machine without entire Grass Catcher or guards in place.

## STEP 7

### DECK ADAPTER INSTALLATION

To install the deck adapter on certain 28" model riders, the discharge deflector may have to be removed first. Be careful to save the deflector and all hardware removed for future use when not bagging.

- A. Remove wing nuts, flat washers and bolts securing deflector to side of deck. Save hardware. See Figure 1.13.



FIGURE 1.13

- B. Lift up, pivoting deflector on hinge, and determine if there is sufficient room to install the adapter. If there is not sufficient room, remove deflector by removing Hinge nut, Spring, and Hinge Pin. Save for future use. See Figure 1.14.

# SECTION 1 – ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

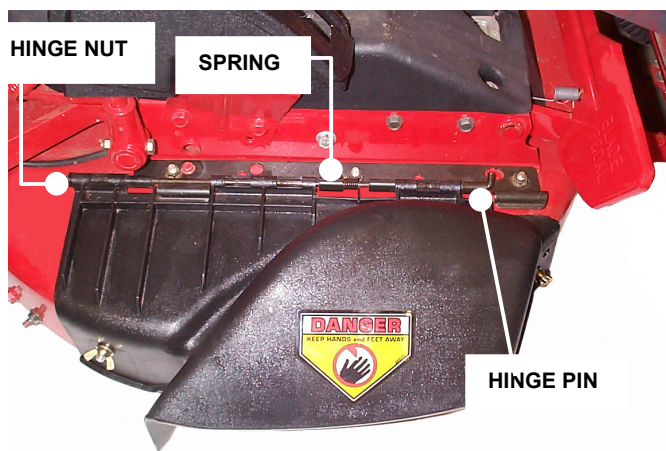


FIGURE 1.14

C. Hold the adapter in front of the deck. Align the adapter lugs with the lug retainers in the hinge. Push or lightly tap front of adapter towards the rear until tight against deck. See Figure 1.15.

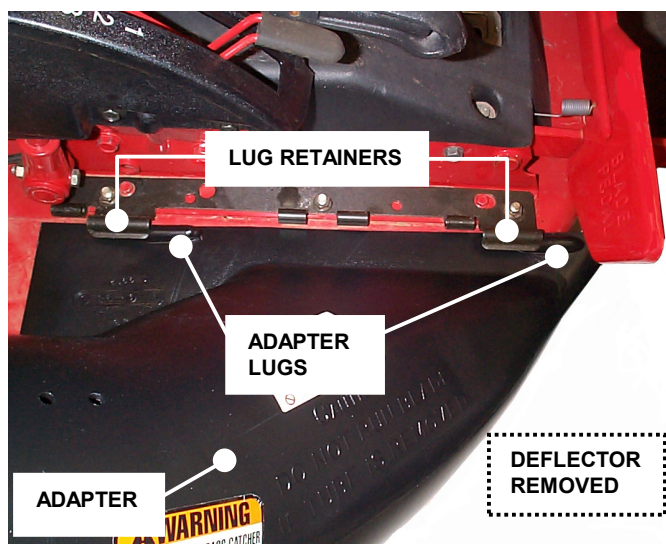


FIGURE 1.15A



FIGURE 1.15B

D. Install one of the previously removed bolts into the hole in the center of the discharge opening and through the hole in the adapter. Secure the adapter to the deck with a flat washer and wing nut. See Figure 1.16.



FLAT WASHER & WING NUT

FIGURE 1.16

E. Attach tube latch to deck adapter. Insert one 1/4-20 x 3/4" Carriage bolt from inside through lower hole in adapter. Place Tube Latch over bolt, followed by 1/4" Internal Tooth lock washer and secure with 1/4-20 hex nut. Align Tube Latch as shown and tighten securely. See Figure 1.17.

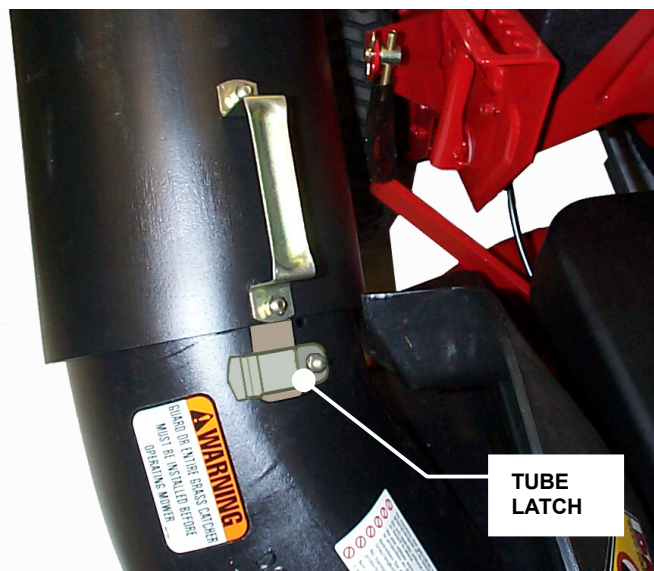


FIGURE 1.17



# SECTION 1 – ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

## STEP 8

### GRASS TUBE INSTALLATION

- A. Attach Tube Handle and Handle Base to Tube before installing Tube to catcher. Insert (2) 1/4-20 x 3/4" Carriage bolts through Handle Base and holes in Tube as shown. See Figure 1.18. Place Tube Handle over bolts followed by 1/4" Internal Tooth lock washers and secure with (2) 1/4-20 hex nuts. Tighten securely. See Figure 1.18.

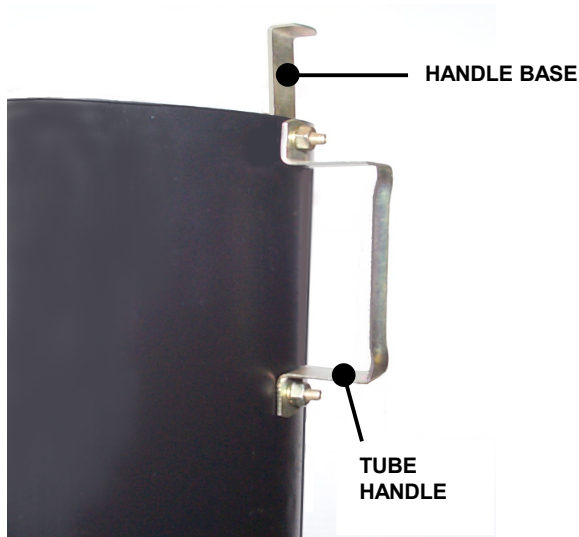


FIGURE 1.18

- B. Place deck in lowest cutting height setting.  
C. Slide upper end of Grass Tube (end without Handle) into opening in Front Cover Assembly.  
D. Slide lower end of Grass Tube over adapter and rotate towards mower to secure Handle Base under Latch. See Figure 1.19.  
E. Adjust deck to desired cutting height.

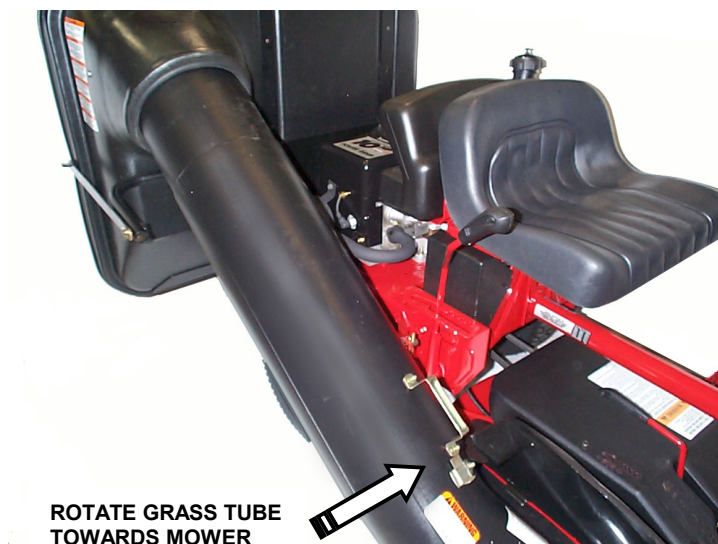


FIGURE 1.19



# SECTION 2– OPERATION & MAINTENANCE

## INTRODUCTION


Follow operation and maintenance instructions in the Operator's Manual provided with the Snapper Rear Engine Rider.

### 2.1 GRASS CATCHER OPERATION


- A. Select desired cutting height. Choose a setting that will not attempt to cut off too much at once, overloading the machine.
- B. After starting engine and allowing a brief warm up period, move engine speed control to highest setting.
- C. Drive machine to cutting area. Engage blades.
- D. Select a slow forward ground speed until familiar with conditions. Do not select a speed that is too fast, causing the machine to become overloaded.
- E. The weight of the grass catcher and contents will affect the stability and handling of the machine. Avoid sudden starts and sharp turns. Reduce speed on slopes, and DO NOT operate machine on slopes exceeding 10 degrees (18% grade). Operate machine up and down slopes. DO NOT operate machine across the face of slopes. Turn blades off when traveling up slope.
- F. Empty grass catcher often to minimize effect on stability and handling. Over filling the catcher will reduce performance and cause clogging of the tube, adapter and deck.
- G. Do not operate the machine with the Grass Catcher open. The entire Grass Catcher must be installed, the catcher closed and latched properly before operating.

### 2.2 EMPTYING GRASS CATCHER

- A. Empty Grass Catcher often to avoid overfilling. Overfilling reduces performance and causes clogging of tube, adapter and deck.
- B. Turn blades off. Drive machine to location the clippings are to be dumped. DO NOT operate blades in reverse. If you must back machine to dump clippings in desired location, LOOK and SEE behind and down for children, pets and hazards before and while backing.
- C. Shift transmission to Neutral (N). Engage Park Brake. Stop engine. Remove key.
- D. Lift up on handle sufficiently to allow all clippings to exit catcher. If the dumped pile is too high to allow the catcher to close, you may be required to use a rake or similar implement to distribute the clippings.
- E. After dumping, to maintain peak performance, check the catcher screen located on the inside of the Rear Cover Assembly to make sure it is clean and free of any build up. Clean as required with brush or broom.
- F. Close catcher. Push down firmly on handle to ensure it is properly latched.
- G. Re-start engine and drive machine to cutting area. Set engine speed to highest setting, engage blades and resume operation.



## WARNING



**DO NOT attempt to remove any clogs from deck, adapter, or tube with engine or blade running. STOP engine. STOP blade. Engage parking brake. Remove key. Make sure blade and all rotating components have come to a complete stop before removing or unclogging any catcher component.**

### 2.3 IF THE GRASS CATCHER BECOMES CLOGGED?

The grass catcher may become plugged if the conditions are too severe, the catcher is overfilled, or the machine is used improperly. If plugging does occur, attempt the following:

1. Empty catcher more often.
2. Clean screen on Rear Cover Assembly.
3. Ground speed too fast – cut at slower speed.
4. Removing too much grass – raise cutting height, cut partial width, and cut lawn more frequently.
5. Grass is too wet from rain or dew – allow grass to dry.
6. Blades are dull or worn – inspect blades and replace as necessary. Use only genuine SNAPPER replacement blades.
7. Mower equipped with incorrect blade. Catcher operation requires high lift blade. Contact your local SNAPPER dealer for assistance in choosing the correct blade for your application.
8. Deck, adapter, or tube has clipping build up – clean all clippings from all internal surfaces.

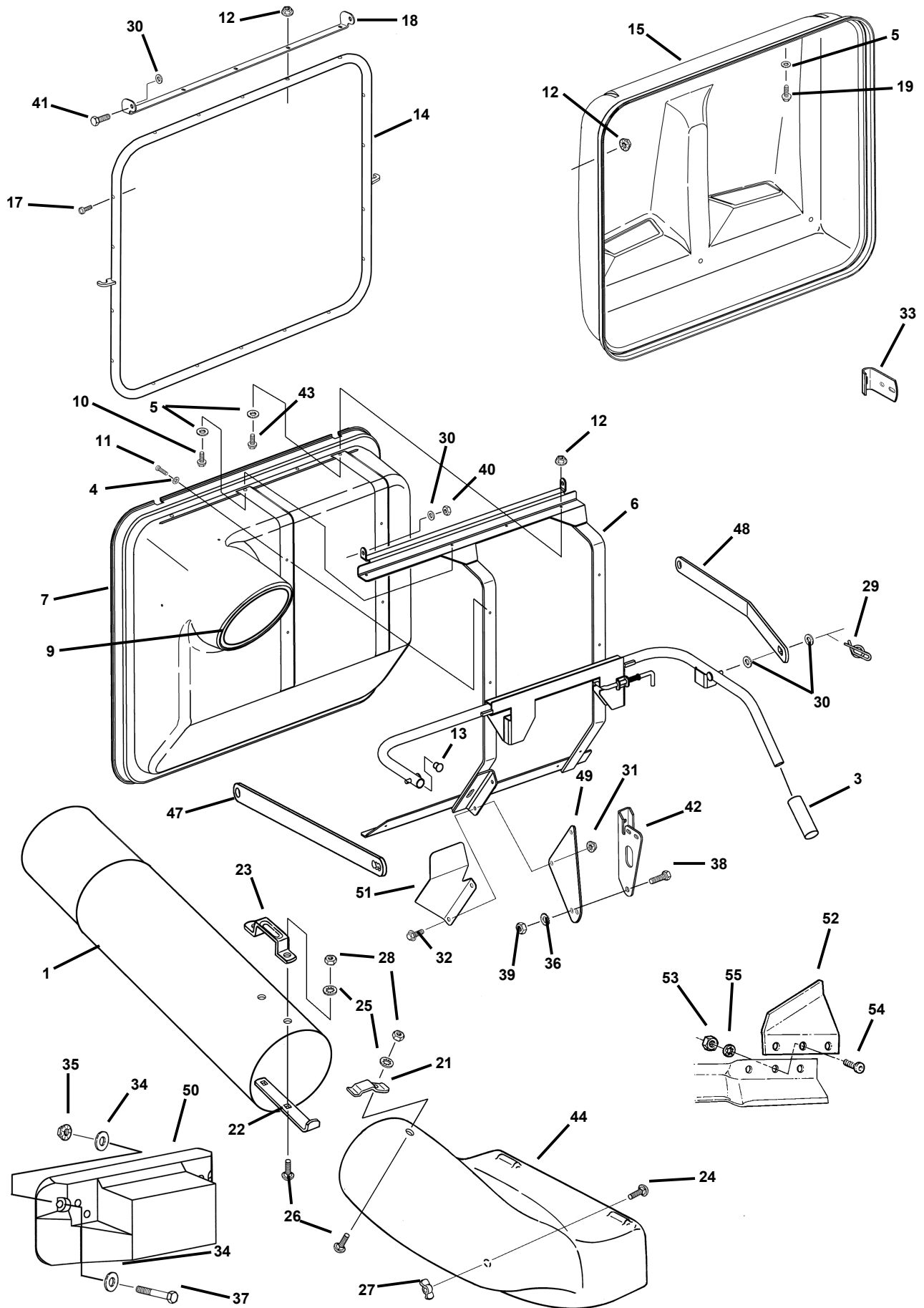
### 2.4 GRASS CATCHER MAINTENANCE

Grass Catcher components are subject to wear and deterioration during normal usage. Inspect all components frequently for signs of wear and deterioration. Replace worn or damaged components immediately.

#### BEFORE EACH USE

- A. Inspect all Catcher components. Replace all worn or damaged parts.
- B. Clean grass build up from deck, adapter, grass tube, covers and rear cover screen. To maintain peak performance make sure screen is clean at each dumping.
- C. Inspect blade for wear or damage. Replace as needed.
- D. Perform pre-start check list and maintenance as instructed in the SNAPPER Rear Engine Rider Operator's Manual and Engine Owner's Manual included with the machine.

# CLAMSHELL ASSEMBLY COMPONENTS



## CLAMSHELL ASSEMBLY COMPONENTS

ITEM	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	1-4517	TUBE, Grass
2	2-8700	DECAL, Read Manual (Not Shown)
3	1-1870	GRIP
4	1-6314	WASHER, 11/32 Flat (9)
5	3-6422	WASHER, 3/16 Flat (30)
6	5-8615	WELDMENT, Front Cover Brace
7	7-2873	COVER, Front
8	7-2874	DEFLECTOR (Not Shown)
9	7-2950	GASKET, Chute
10	9-0307	SCREW, #10-24 x 1/2" Self-Tapping (3)
11	9-0999	SCREW, 1/4-20 x 5/8" Pan Head Self-Tapping (9)
12	9-1079	NUT, #10-24 Hex Flange Lock (22)
13	7-2951	END CAP, Tube
14	5-8600	WELDMENT, Rear Cover Brace
15	7-2872	COVER, Rear
16	7-2876	GRILL, Rear Cover (Not Shown)
17	7-3145	BOLT, #10-24 x 1-1/2" Oval Head (13)
18	7-3179	HINGE, Rear Cover
19	9-1265	SCREW, #10-24 x 1-1/2 Machine (5)
20	7-2964	DECAL, Warning (Not Shown)
21	3-1951	LATCH, Chute/Tube
22	3-1952	BASE, Handle
23	3-7745	HANDLE, Tube
24	9-1303	BOLT, 5/16-18 x 1" Carriage
25	9-1314	WASHER, 1/4 Internal Tooth Lock (3)
26	9-1530	BOLT, 1/4-20 x 3/4" Carriage (3)
27	9-1537	NUT, 5/16-18 Wing
28	9-1576	NUT, 1/4-20 Hex (3)
29	9-1593	PIN, 3/8 Self Lock Cotter (2)
30	9-1514	WASHER, 3/8 Lock (8)
31	9-1601	NUT, 5/16-18 Flange Lock (2)
32	9-1811	BOLT, 5/16-18 x 5/8" Hex Flange Lock (2)
33	3-1954	SUPPORT, Bumper
34	2-1746	WASHER, 3/8 Flat (4)
35	9-0499	NUT, 3/8-16 Hex Top Lock (2)
36	9-0509	WASHER, 1/2 Internal Tooth Lock
37	9-0590	BOLT, 3/8-16 x 3" Hex Cap Gr. 5 (2)
38	9-0646	BOLT, 1/2-13 x 1" Hex Cap Gr. 5
39	9-1316	NUT, 1/2-13 Hex Gr. B
40	9-1299	NUT, 3/8-16 Hex Lock (2)
41	9-1304	SCREW, 3/8-16 x 1" Hex Cap (2)
42	5-8745	BRACE, Bumper
43	9-0624	BOLT, #10-24 x 3/4" Flange Lock
44	5-8641	ASSEMBLY, Chute
45	2-9784	DECAL, International Warning (Not Shown)
46	4-6720	DECAL, Chute/Deflector (Not Shown)
47	7-3172	LINK, Handle (Right Hand)
48	7-3173	LINK, Handle (Left Hand)
49	7-3171	PLATE, Hitch
50	7-3271	WEIGHT (46 lb.)
51	5-8902	SHIELD, Heat
--	6-0480	KIT, Air Lift (Includes Items 50 thru 53)
52	3-7723	Air Lift (2)
53	9-0223	NUT, 5/16-24 Hex (6)
54	9-0228	SCREW, 5/16-24 x 5/8" Oval Head Machine (6)
55	9-0391	WASHER, 5/16 Internal Tooth Lock (6)

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